

ment will create more jobs for labor union members in the United States. We have to assert those facts, and we can prevail if we do.

Now, we have, as you know, about 2½ weeks, a little more, before the scheduled vote. That is an eternity. The Congress wants to do the right thing. I am convinced, about a week or 10 days ago we passed what I always think of as the first threshold in a big struggle in the Congress: I believe we won the secret ballot battle. That is, I think if there were no recorded votes we could ratify NAFTA tomorrow. And that is a very good sign. It is also not ignoble for people to listen to their constituents.

What we have to do now is move from winning the secret ballot battle to winning the recorded battle. We can do it. We can do it. But I ask you to remember that all those people that are hanging fire, all the undecided voters in the Congress, are carrying with them the accumulated fears, resentments, and anxieties of a lot of Americans who did the very best they could and it still didn't work out for them.

And I ask you to at least go far enough with those folks to say, "If anything happens to you, we're going to give you a chance to learn a new skill. We're going to give you a chance to change." As I tell people anyway, the average 18-year-old is going to change jobs eight times

in a lifetime anyway. We might as well get used to it. The average 60-year-old worker in America is going to have to get used to learning a new skill. They might as well learn to enjoy it. It will make life a lot more interesting.

NAFTA can be the beginning of our decision to be a secure nation in a global economy; to lead, not follow; to reach out, not hunker down. We owe it not just to our friends in Mexico and Canada and Latin America, not just to the rest of the world, we owe it to the tradition of America. And I believe we will do it. But it's going to take all hands on deck. And I came here tonight to ask for your help, as much as you can do in every way that you can, for the next 3 weeks.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:23 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Peter R. Kann, chairman and chief executive officer, Dow Jones and Co., Inc., and publisher, the Wall Street Journal; Albert R. Hunt, executive Washington editor, and Alan Murray, Washington bureau chief, the Wall Street Journal; William R. Rhodes, vice chairman, CITIBANK; and Karen Elliott House, vice president international, Dow Jones and Co., Inc.

Statement on Signing the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994

October 28, 1993

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2491, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994."

The Act provides funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development and independent agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and National Science Foundation. This Act will fund important activities in the space program, housing programs, environmental protection, and programs for our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the Act provides the funding for a number of my high-priority investment

proposals, including the National Service Initiative. The National Service Initiative will provide an opportunity for young people to obtain funding for a college education while serving the country in areas of great need such as education, environment, public safety, and human services.

The Act also provides funding for the redesigned Space Station and New Technology Investments. These programs will set a new direction for the Nation in space exploration, science, and technology.

The Act includes \$6.7 billion in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Act provides funds for EPA programs that protect our environment through enforcement

of our environmental laws, cleanup of hazardous waste sites, and construction of needed water and waste-water treatment facilities.

The Act meets the needs of our Nation's veterans by providing \$15.6 billion in VA medical care, an increase of \$980 million over the FY 1993 enacted level.

The Act includes \$25.4 billion in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including funding for programs such as the HOME block grants for housing, Community Development Grants, and Severely Distressed Public Housing. These programs will assist communities and individuals in revitalizing neighborhoods and increasing opportunities for home ownership.

The Act provides \$3 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation, a \$283 million increase over the FY 1993 enacted level. These programs will promote basic research that is vital to enabling our Nation to compete in world markets.

Regrettably, the Act does not fund all of my priority investment proposals, including the Community Investment Program and Community Development Banks. Due to tight budget constraints, the Congress has had the difficult task of balancing the competing priorities of this Act. Although I am disappointed this bill does not fund these programs and includes cuts to programs in space, science, and technology, the bill provides funding for veterans programs, housing initiatives, and environmental programs at acceptable levels. We will continue to work with the Congress to address our mutual concerns in seeking solutions to our Nation's problems.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2491, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-124.

Statement on Signing the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1994 *October 28, 1993*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2403, the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1994."

This Act provides funding for the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. Programs within these agencies address major law enforcement activities in the United States as well as the fiscal operations and general management functions of the Federal Government.

This Act provides funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax system modernization initiative and the tax law enforcement initiative. These initiatives are part of my investment program that was transmitted in the FY 1994 Budget. The investment in modernizing IRS will improve service to taxpayers, increase the productivity of IRS operations, and increase tax compliance. The tax law enforcement initiative will provide IRS with resources to address serious tax compliance problems and increase revenue collections.

This Act also contains a provision that would implement, on a pilot basis, the recommendation made by the National Performance Review (NPR) that would allow up to 50 percent of an agency's unobligated funding for salaries and expenses at the end of FY 1994 to be carried forward to FY 1995. The authority is limited to agencies covered by this bill. Of the 50 percent carry-over, up to two percent of the funds may be used to finance cash awards to employees whose actions contributed to producing the savings, and up to three percent may be used for employee training programs.

As requested by the Administration, this Act eliminates a long-standing restriction on the use of Federal Employee Health Benefit program funds for eligible persons seeking abortions.

Several provisions in H.R. 2403 condition the President's authority—and the authority of certain agency officials—to use funds appropriated by this Act on the approval of congressional committees. The Administration will interpret